

(b) Amendments to the Specification

Please substitute the paragraph at page 8, lines 4-17 with the following replacement paragraph:

-- A number of microbes have been reported to produce and hold PHAs.

Production of PHB/Vs by microbes, e.g., Alcaligenes autophus H16, ATCC No. 17699, Methylobacterium sp., Paracoccus sp., Alcaligenes sp. or Pseudomonas sp. has been disclosed by ~~Japanese Patent Application Laid Open No. H5-74492~~, and Japanese Patent Publications Nos. H6-15604, H7-14352 and H8-19227. It is also disclosed that Comamonas acidovorans IFO13852 produces a PHA having a 3-hydroxy-n-butyric acid and 4-hydroxy-n-butyric acid monomers (Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. H9-191893), and that aeromonas caviae produces a copolymer of 3-hydroxy-n-butyric acid and 3-hydroxy-hexanoic acid.--